

Settlement Act of 1988 to provide for a final settlement of the claims of the Colorado Ute Indian Tribes, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-513).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 1. A bill to establish an Election Administration Commission to study Federal, State, and local voting procedures and election administration and provide grants to modernize voting procedures and election administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 3280. A bill to prohibit assistance to the Palestinian Authority unless and until certain conditions are met; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 3281. A bill to designate the United States Post Office located at 60 Third Avenue in Long Branch, New Jersey, as the Pat King Post Office Building; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 3282. A bill to authorize funding for University Nuclear Science and Engineering Programs at the Department of Energy for fiscal years 2002 through 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 3283. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Commodity Exchange Act to promote legal certainty, enhance competition, and reduce systematic risk in markets for futures and over-the-counter derivatives, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3284. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a national health program administered by the Office of Personnel Management to offer Federal employee health benefits plans to individuals who are not Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3285. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude tobacco products from qualifying foreign trade property in the treatment of extraterritorial income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 3286. A bill to provide permanent funding for the Bureau of Land Management Payment in Lieu of Taxes program and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3287. A bill to amend title 3, United States Code, and the Uniform Time Act of 1966 to establish a single poll closing time for Presidential general elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):
S. Res. 388. A resolution tendering the thanks of the Senate to the President pro tempore for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):
S. Res. 389. A resolution tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Vice President for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 390. To commend the exemplary leadership of the Democratic Leader; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 391. A resolution to commend the exemplary leadership of the Majority Leader; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):
S. Res. 392. A resolution tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Senate Staff for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which they have assisted the deliberations of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. Res. 393. Considered and agreed to.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. BYRD):

S. Con. Res. 162. A concurrent resolution to direct the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 4577; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 1. A bill to establish an Election Administration Commission to study Federal, State, and local voting procedures and election administration and provide grants to modernize voting procedures and election administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ELECTION REFORM ACT

Mr. McCONNELL Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Election Reform Act. As chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, I am pleased to be introducing along with Senators TORRICELLI, FEINSTEIN, ALLARD, SMITH, and LANDRIEU meaningful, bipartisan legislation to reform the administration of our nation's elections. As we move into the twenty-first century it is inexcusable that the world's most advanced democracy relies on voting systems designed shortly after the Second World War. The Election Reform Act will ensure that our nation's elec-

toral process is brought up to twenty-first century standards.

By combining the Federal Election Commission's Election Clearinghouse and the Department of Defense's Office of Voting Assistance, which facilitates voting by American civilians and servicemen overseas, into the Election Administration Commission, the bill will create one agency that can bring focused expertise to bear on the administration of elections. This Commission will consist of four Commissioners appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. It will continue to carry out the functions of the two entities that are being combined to create it. These include advising states on the requirements of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, carrying out the Federal functions under the Uniformed and Overseas Voting Act, and servicing as a clearinghouse for information on federal elections and election administration.

In addition, the new Commission will engage in ongoing study and make periodic recommendations on the best practices relating to voting technology and ballot design as well as polling place accessibility. The Commission will also study and recommend ways to improve voter registration, verification of registration, and the maintenance and accuracy of voter rolls. This is of special urgency in view of the allegations surfacing in this election of hundreds of felons being listed on voting rolls and illegally voting, as reported last week in the Miami Herald, while other law abiding citizens who allegedly registered were not included on the voting rolls and were unable to vote. Such revelations from this year's elections coupled with the well-known report by "60 Minutes" of the prevalence of dead people and pets both registering and voting in past elections make clear the need for thoughtful study and recommendations to ensure that everyone who is legally entitled to vote is able to do so and that everyone who votes is legally entitled to do so—and does so only once. In addition to its studies and recommendations, the Commission will provide matching grants to states working to improve election administration.

I think it is important that this Commission be established as a permanent, ongoing body. Many issues of election administration, such as polling place accessibility and alternative voting methods require ongoing examination in view of ever-changing technology. A permanent Commission will be able to better facilitate timely information about new, cost-effective technologies that can improve election administration, such as technology to enable physically-challenged citizens to vote with the same degree of privacy and dignity enjoyed by other citizens.